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# Astronauts Back And They're Safe

## Laser Return Hoped

By WALTER SULLIVAN
(C. New York Times News Service)

NEW YORK — After several nights in which observatories in Texas, California and Hawaii beamed powerful laser pulses at the Apollo 11 landing site on the moon, there have been indications of returning flashes.

One of the two scientific packages left at the site was a reflector aimed to return flashes of lased light generated by observatories on earth.

**Caused by Errors**

The difficulty in obtaining the returning flashes seems to have been caused by errors in estimated earth-moon distances. The errors appear to have been as large as two and a half miles.

It is also reported that the Sea of Tranquility, in which the astronauts landed, may be extraordinarily rich in titanium, giving it a peculiar purple tint. This has been deduced from a new and more detailed analysis of data radioed to earth in 1967 by Surveyor 5.

The Surveyor was an unmanned craft that landed some 20 miles north of the spot where the Apollo astronauts came down. The Surveyor analysis of two moon samples shows titanium levels higher than those of any common earth rocks or of any meteorite that has fallen from the sky.

**Aldrin Comments**

Soon after Col. Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. climbed down onto the lunar surface late Sunday, he said to Neil A. Armstrong:

"Neil, didn't I say we might see some purple rocks?"

They put several fragments in their specimen box.

On Wednesday, Dr. Eugene M. Shoemaker, of the California Institute of Technology, told a news conference at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston that the whole of the Sea of Tranquility had a peculiar dark-blue tinge. In this respect it was quite distinct from the other lunar seas, he said.

Some laser beaming has been done from the Lick Observatory in California and from an Observatory of the University of Michigan atop Mount Haleakala in Hawaii.

However, the chief efforts have been made by directing a laser beam through the optics of the new, 107-inch telescope at the McDonald Observatory of the University of Texas.

Two difficulties have hampered the effort. One was uncertainty as to the exact location of the site.

The other problem was to estimate the distance between the observatory and the reflector.

## Collins Gains Full Colonelcy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Air Force granted astronaut Michael Collins a promotion to full colonel on his return from the moon Thursday.

Gen. John P. McConnell, Air Force chief of staff, said in a congratulatory message: "The Apollo 11 mission is indeed a momentous achievement", and that the promotion is "a token of appreciation for the part you played."

Of the other two astronauts, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin is already a full colonel while Neil Armstrong is a civilian.

(NASA Pool Photo by AP)

Left To Right, Armstrong, Collins, Aldrin In Mobile Quarantine Facility On Carrier Hornet

**SPLASHDOWN** — Map shows the location of the Apollo 11 splashdown Thursday. The Apollo 11 ship hit the water at 12:50 p.m. EDT about nine miles from the recovery ship USS Hornet.

## Moon Landing Nearly Came To The Point Of Aborting

By RICHARD WITKIN
(C. New York Times News Service)

NEW YORK — Apollo officials were seriously worried during the final minutes of the Lunar landing approach that an overworked computer aboard "Eagle" might compel it to abort and rocket back into orbit, the operations director disclosed Thursday.

"The computer was right on the ragged edge," the official, Christopher C. Kraft Jr., related. "It was sending 'alarms' that it was working right up to 100 per cent capacity."

Asked if the men in the mission control room in Houston were worried that the landing approach would have to be broken off, he said:

"You're damn right we were."

**Eight Minutes Before**

Kraft said the difficulty arose about eight minutes before Eagle landed and had to be watched almost to touchdown. He praised the guidance officer on duty, Stephen G. Bales, and the flight director in charge, Eugene F. Kranz, for the steps they took to keep a "serious" problem from becoming "catastrophic" and foreclosing the landing attempt.

Lt. Gen. Samuel C. Phillips, director of Project Apollo, endorsed Kraft's estimate, saying:

"In my opinion, we almost didn't make it. I could be wrong. Neil might see it differently. But I think we came awfully close to having to abort."

**In Phone Interview**

Kraft's account was given in a telephone interview from Houston shortly before the Apollo 11 crew returned safely to earth from man's first voyage to another world. There had been little prior information to indicate by what a narrow margin the epochal landing had finally been accomplished.

A few bare clues that something was wrong came over the radio shortly after the final start of the descent engine, at 50,000 feet, to bring the lunar module out of orbit and head it down to the landing site.

"Program alarm," came the

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## *Eastern Maine Applauds-- 'Glad They Got Back Well'*

"Wonderful," "Breathtaking," and "I'm glad they got back safely" are a summation of how eastern Maine residents reacted to man's first walk on the moon.

Here is a sampling of some of their statements after splashdown Thursday:

Sheriff Darrell Crandell in Houlton: "I'm sure glad they got back safely. We'll have to wait and see what the scientists will find in the moon samples to see really how scientifically profitable the trip was."

**Better Wait**

Joseph Cunningham, Houlton police dispatcher and leather carver: "I'm happy they are back but I think we had better wait a while before we say how much the scientific world will benefit from the trip."

Ruby Jack, an 85-year-old Dover-Foxcroft housewife: "Thank God I lived long enough to see them walk on the moon. I think it's just wonderful.

**"Fantastic",**

E. Albert Nitsche, a 38-year veteran in the teaching profession summering at Swans Island: "Fantastic, but we'll have to wait a while before we realize the full importance of the mission."

Nitsche, head of the Science Department at New London, Conn., High School, thinks the United States should push ahead with its space program and venture to other planets. "That's the only thing that keeps a scientist going, the challenge of new frontiers."

**"A Humdinger"**

Miss Katherine Filbettar, a Bar Harbor resident and a news correspondent, called the trip: "A humdinger." Miss Filbettar said she sent a St. Christopher medal to one of the astronauts to wear on the trip but hasn't heard if he did.

Dr. Richard Fox, a staff member at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor: "The results of the analysis on the moon samples are bound to enlighten us as to the composition of the moon. I think we have reached one goal, but we can't stop now."

Clarence P. Imhof of Belfast: "What a benefit to man to know about the moon. It wasn't important that we got there first, but it should add a lot to the prestige of Americans working in the space program."

Joseph Demasco, who works at the Winter Harbor Naval Security Group station, spoke of the quarantine: "It's a necessary precaution, but I think it's a bit too long. I don't believe they will find any germs unknown to scientists. It's too hot there (on the moon) for bacteria to survive."

The Rev. T. O. Ommen, pastor of United Methodist churches in Columbia Falls, Columbia, Addison and Harrington, termed the success "tremendous, especially in view of the fact that there are so many who want to tear the country down. Freedom, as it is expressed in every aspect of the American way, only tends to build."

Looking at the triumph through the eyes of a native of India, the Rev. Ommen compared the American astronauts and space program to the Russian way of conducting their space ventures.

He said: "The Americans wanted to do it . . . they weren't sent or forced. But the Russians are trained and have no other choice . . . if you are in, you are in and can't get out . . . you are forced to produce in whatever vocation you are placed into."

He termed the American effort "remarkable" that it was achieved "along with all of America's freedom and independent and liberal views."

Bob Gray of Skowhegan termed the flight a "remarkable engineering feat" but felt the money could have been better spent here on earth. He expressed no great concern about the Earth's contamination by moon germs.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Cady of Auburn, N.Y., returning from

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

## Next U.S. Aim May Be Mars

ABOARD USS HORNET (UPI)—Apollo 11's astronauts streaked safely to earth Thursday to end their epic voyage to the moon.

American space officials began talking about Mars as their next target while the first man to walk the moon lazily strummed his small ukelele in the astronauts' isolation trailer aboard this recovery aircraft carrier.

Neil A. Armstrong, civilian commander of man's greatest adventure, was as calm as the rest of the world was jubilant.

A photographer peering through a window in the shiny, quarantine trailer on the hangar deck saw Armstrong pick up the ukelele and began playing.

"I couldn't hear what he was playing but he had his head back, his eyes closed, he was grinning and looking like he was having a whale of a time," he said.

Bringing with them as their treasure — Rocks from the Dusty lunar surface — Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. landed in the Pacific Ocean at 12:50 p.m. EDT.

They were airlifted by helicopter to this carrier one hour and seven minutes later to received the personal welcome of President Richard M. Nixon and a breakfast of Georgia pancakes in their isolation van.

**Splashdown Flash**

Word of their safe splashdown was flashed around the world, even inside Russia, and the Soviets led the world's powers in messages of congratulations. In the United States, there were sirens, horns and cheers from San Francisco and Montpelier, Vt., to Armstrong's hometown of Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Dr. George E. Mueller, associate administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), told a news conference the eight-day mission of Apollo 11 has put the nation "at what is undoubtedly

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## Lille Mother Held In Murder Of Her Two Children, 3 And 6

By DEAN RHODES

LILLE — Mabel Grivois removed a big wooden crucifix that had been placed atop a clothes trunk in the upstairs hallway of her daughter's house.

Mabel's son-in-law, Roland Sirois, opened the trunk.

The grandmother and father stared in horror.

Inside the otherwise empty trunk lay the bodies of Michael Sirois, 6, and Brian Sirois, 3, the sons of Sirois and grandsons of Mrs. Grivois.

The grandmother's cheeks flushed against her white hair Thursday as she told of the Wednesday night discovery in the home of Rose Ann Sirois, 26. Mrs. Grivois recalled that the bodies had revealed "no shots, no cut," but that the eldest boy had marks on his throat.

Sirois cried, "Oh no! My kids!", the short, solidly-built grandmother remembered.

Brunette Rose Anne Sirois was arraigned in Madawaska District Court at 4 p.m. Thursday on two state police charges of murdering her sons Wednesday in this Grand Isle community.

Mrs. Sirois entered no plea before Judge Robert L. Browne

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**FROGMAN LENDS A HAND** — The Apollo 11 astronauts, fresh from the capsule that brought them back to earth from the moon, wait in a raft, right, beside the module, left, as Navy frogman Lt. Clancy Hatleberger, works on the conmand module. (AP Wirephoto by radio from Carrier Hornet)